

VZCZCXR05881

PP RUEHFK RUEHKSO RUEHNAG RUEHNH
DE RUEHOK #0366/01 2010718

ZNR UUUUU ZZH

P 200718Z JUL 06

FM AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE

TO RUHPOAA/COMSEVENTHFLT PRIORITY
INFO RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 7646
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0334
RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO PRIORITY 0136
RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA PRIORITY 2237
RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA PRIORITY 0124
RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA PRIORITY 0144
RUYNJDK/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
RUYNJMF/NAVCRIMINVSEVF FAREAST YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 OSAKA KOBE 000366

SIPDIS

COMSEVENTHFLT PASS TO USS JOHN S. MCCAIN

SENSITIVE

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: MARR PREL JA

SUBJECT: WELCOME FOR USS JOHN S. MCCAIN, JULY 18-JULY
21ST VISIT TO SAKAIMINATO

¶11. (U) CONSULATE GENERAL OSAKA-KOBE WELCOMES THE VISIT
OF THE USS JOHN S. MCCAIN SCHEDULED FOR JULY 18 TO JULY
¶121. WE LOOK FORWARD TO ASSISTING YOU IN ANY WAY WE CAN
TO MAKE THIS VISIT SUCCESSFUL AND ENJOYABLE FOR ALL
INVOLVED.

SECURITY BACKGROUND INFORMATION

¶12. (SBU) CONSULATE GENERAL OSAKA-KOBE HAS ASSISTED WITH 11 SHIP
VISITS IN THE LAST 6 YEARS, MOST RECENTLY WITH THE VISIT OF THE USS
RUSSELL TO SUKUMO IN MAY.
THEY WERE ALL SUCCESSFUL AND CONTRIBUTED TO IMPROVING
THE ATMOSPHERE SURROUNDING SHIP VISITS IN THE KANSAI
REGION. THE RECENT SUKUMO VISIT OF THE RUSSELL DREW
LIMITED PROTESTS BUT OVERWHELMING SUPPORT BY THE COMMU-
NITY, INCLUDING A TOWN-WIDE FESTIVAL IN HONOR OF THE SHIP AND WIDE
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE VISIT SUPPORT BY CITY
GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS LEADERS.

¶13. (SBU) THE SAKAIMINATO PORT AUTHORITY AND THE
CONSULATE HAS MADE EVERY EFFORT TO GET THE BEST POSSIBLE BERTH FOR
THIS VISIT, AND HAVE ARRANGED FOR THE MCCAIN TO DOCK AT THE SHOWA
MINAMI 1 BERTH, PROVIDING EXCELLENT ACCESS TO THE CITY CENTER.
MAYOR NAKAMURA IS COOPERATIVE ABOUT THE VISIT, AND WILL ASSIST WHERE
NEEDED.

¶14. (SBU) AS OF YET, NO ORGANIZATIONS HAVE APPLIED FOR
DEMONSTRATION PERMITS TO PROTEST THE MCCAIN'S ARRIVAL.
CONSULATE WILL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON
SCHEDULED DEMONSTRATIONS AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE.

¶15. (SBU) IN THE PAST, THE CONSULATE HAS RECEIVED AS MANY AS 100
PROTEST LETTERS FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS OPPOSED TO
PROPOSED VISITS. FOR THE UPCOMING VISIT OF THE USS JOHN S. MCCAIN,
THE CONSULATE HAS RECEIVED NO PROTEST LETTERS TO DATE. PORT, COAST
GUARD AND POLICE OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN VERY RESPONSIVE TO ALL SECURITY
CONCERN RAISED BY THE CONSULATE.

¶16. (SBU) SAKAIMINATO IS ONE OF THE TOP TWO PORTS VISITED BY NORTH
KOREAN SHIPS IN JAPAN. THE CITY IMPORTS SOME 1.6 BILLION YEN IN
NORTH KOREAN FISH PRODUCTS, AND EXPORTS 300 MILLION YEN IN USED
BICYCLES AND EQUIPMENT. NORTH KOREAN TRADE IS AN IMPORTANT ECONOMIC
ISSUE FOR THE PORT.

REGIONAL BACKGROUND

¶7. (U) LOCATED ON THE NORTHERN BORDER OF TOTTORI AND SHIMANE PREFECTURE, THE SEAPORT OF SAKAIMINATO IS ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS FISHERY PORTS IN JAPAN AND IS THE BIGGEST PORT IN THE TOTTORI AREA. SAKAIMINATO WAS FOUNDED IN 1956 AND IS HOME TO APPROXIMATELY 36,910 RESIDENTS. THE SAKAI CITY BEACH IS SURROUNDED BY WHITE SANDS AND GREEN PINE TREES AND IS RANKED AS ONE OF JAPAN'S 100 BEST BEACHES.

ACCESS INFORMATION

¶8. (U) FOR CREW ON LIBERTY, SAKAIMINATO OFFERS AMPLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR VARIOUS MARINE SPORTS, HOT SPRINGS AROUND THE SHIMANE REGION, AS WELL AS SIGHTSEEING TO SAKAI CITY'S HISTORICAL SITES AND SCENIC LANDSCAPE.

¶9. (U) CONSULATE HAS ARRANGED WITH THE SAKAIMINATO CITY GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE APPROXIMATELY 300 ENGLISH LANGUAGE SAKAIMINATO WELCOME PACKAGES, INCLUDING MAPS, FOR THE CREW'S REFERENCE.

SCHEDULE

OSAKA KOBE 00000366 002 OF 002

¶10. (SBU) THE CURRENT DRAFT SCHEDULE FOR THE USS JOHN S. MCCAIN'S VISIT IS AS FOLLOWS; WE ANTICIPATE THAT DETAILED UPDATES AND CHANGES WILL BE NECESSARY. THEY WILL BE COMMUNICATED VIA EMAIL AND TELEPHONE BY CONSULATE AND CNFJ.

DAY 1 (TUESDAY, JULY 18, 2006)

0900	SHIP ARRIVAL ALONGSIDE BERTH
0930-1000	SHIP WELCOME CEREMONY
1015-1045	VIP SHIP TOUR
1030-1100	PRESS SHIP TOUR
1045-1100	PRE-PRESS CONFERENCE MEETING WITH CO, PAO, INTERPRETER
1100-1130	PRESS EVENT WITH CO, PAO IN WARD ROOM
1430	CREWS ASSEMBLE AT BERTH AND BUS DEPARTS
1500-1600	BEACH CLEANUP BY CREW

POC: MR. NAGAI, SAKAIMINATO CITY HALL:
(08)5947-1027
PLACE: TBD

POINTS OF CONTACT

¶11. (U) POCS AT CONSULATE GENERAL OSAKA-KOBE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

POLITICAL-ECONOMIC OFFICER PHILIP CUMMINGS (CONTROL OFFICER)
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RUSSEL

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